

Given this information, do you want to talk to Schumer—and Durbin—about having this conversation with Leahy and then speak with Leahy? We strongly recommend that you have these conversations, and we believe Leahy must be approached quickly.

Decision:

Yes, I will talk to Schumer and Durbin; the three of us will go to Leahy _____.

No, I will not speak with Schumer and Durbin or Leahy _____.

II. CHAIRING A HEARING

As you know, Senator Leahy asked that you chair the last nominations hearing, but given your schedule, you could not. His staff is now asking us to choose the hearing you would like to chair (see the schedule above).

I propose that you chair the Owen hearing on July 18th. As you know, Owen will probably be our next big fight. The grassroots organizations are organized in Texas, and the national groups are prepared, as well. In addition, Judiciary Democrats expect to fight her, hearing attendance should be good, and the issues are clear—Enron/pro-business and choice.

You should know, the Leahy staff (and the Schumer staff) propose that you chair the Estrada hearing and I disagree. Although other staffers see Estrada as a civil rights problem, because he has no record, there isn't civil rights ammunition. We don't believe Estrada is "your kind of fight." We think Durbin or Schumer might be better for the Estrada hearing (and, at least on the staff level, there's interest from the Schumer office).

Decision: I will chair a hearing on:

Shedd (6/27) _____.

Owen (7/18) _____.

Cook (8/1) _____ (we want this to go away).

Raggi (9/5) _____.

Estrada (9/19) _____.

McConnell (10/3) _____.

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Durbin.

Date: October 15, 2001.

Re: Meeting with Civil Rights Leaders, Tuesday, October 16, 2001 at 5:30 p.m.

You are scheduled to meet with leaders of several civil rights organizations to discuss their serious concerns with the judicial nomination process. The leaders will include: Ralph Neas (People For the American Way), Kate Michelman (NARAL), Nan Aron (Alliance for Justice), Wade Henderson (Leadership Conference on Civil Rights), Leslie Proll (NAACP Legal Defense & Education Fund), Nancy Zirkin (American Association of University Women), Marcia Greenberger (National Women's Law Center), Judy Lichtman (National Partnership), and a representative from the AFL-CIO. The meeting will take place in 317 Russell, with Senators Kennedy and (possibly) Schumer also present.

The immediate catalyst for Tuesday's meeting was the announcement last Thursday that the Judiciary Committee would hold a hearing in one week on district court judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr., a highly controversial nominee for the Fifth Circuit. The interest groups have two objections; (1) in light of the terrorist attacks, it was their understanding that no controversial judicial nominees would be moved this fall; and (2) they were given assurances that they would receive plenty of notice to prepare for any controversial nominee.

Judge Pickering, you will recall, has a checkered past: he wrote a law review student note recommending that the Mississippi legislature restore its miscegenation law; as a state legislator, he opposed the Equal Rights Amendment and voted to seal the

records of the infamous sovereignty commission; and as a Republican activist; he promoted an anti-abortion plank to the national party platform. He has written some controversial opinions while serving on the district court, criticizing prisoner access to the courts and the "one person-one vote" principle. The interest groups believe that a high percentage of Pickering's opinions are unpublished, one reason why they object to the lack of time to prepare for his hearing.

Recognizing that Thursday's hearing is likely to go forward, the groups are asking that the Committee hold a second hearing on Pickering in a few weeks, when they will have had adequate time to research him fully. The decision to schedule Pickering's hearing was made by Senator Leahy himself, not his staff, so the groups are likely to ask you to intercede personally. They will also seek assurances that they will receive adequate warning of future controversial nominees.

TRIBUTE TO GRAHAM NIELSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district. Recently, Graham Nielson was awarded the "McGuffey Award" by the Colorado Association of School Boards for his twelve years of dedicated service on the Dolores School Board. Graham recently announced his retirement from the Board, and I would like to take this opportunity to join my colleagues in thanking him for his service.

Graham moved to Dolores while he was in grade school. After high school, Graham married Dianne Carver. Later, Graham and Dianne moved to Santa Fe, where Graham became an EMT and Fireman. In 1985, Graham and his family returned to Dolores, where he eventually took his current position as a computer systems analyst for Nielson Skansa, Inc. Until recently, Graham also served the community as a member of the Dolores Fire Department, and still holds a position on the board of the Colorado Firefighter's Academy.

Graham and Dianne have had five wonderful children. When the children entered the Dolores school system, Graham decided to run for a position on the School Board. He has served as the director of the RE-4 School Board for 12 years. Graham has dedicated a great deal to assuring that the children of Dolores have a positive educational experience. The children of Dolores have certainly benefited as the result of Graham's tireless dedication to their interests.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call the contributions of Graham Nielson to the attention of this body of Congress and our nation. Graham has dedicated his life to the betterment of others and I am proud to pay tribute to him here today. Thank you Graham, and congratulations on a well-deserved award.

IN MEMORY OF LANCE CPL. DAVID OWENS, JR., USMC

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I was honored recently to be asked to participate in a memorial service for my constituent, Lance Cpl. David Owens, Jr., USMC, who was killed in action in Baghdad on April 12 of this year. The presentation of a memorial plaque was held in Winchester, Virginia, on October 24 during half-time ceremonies on the football field at James Wood High School, Corporal Owens' alma mater.

I would like to share with my colleagues the remarks given that evening in memory of this brave young man who served his nation proudly and who died defending our freedoms.

REMARKS BY FREDERICK COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, DR. WILLIAM C. DEAN

Good evening, The war in Iraq claimed the life of a James Wood High School graduate of the class of 2000. On Saturday, April 12, 2003, 20-year-old Marine Lance Corporal David Owens was killed in action in Baghdad.

It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to the parents of Corporal Owens, Mr. and Mrs. David Owens.

In creating this memorial, it is our hope this service tonight will remind Mr. and Mrs. Owens of one of the many places where David made an impact at James Wood High School. And, I also extend an invitation to them to return here often.

James Wood High School is a place David enjoyed, and we enjoyed and valued David's presence here. He is missed by his classmates, his teachers and those who knew him.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am honored to present David and Debbie Owens.

Thank you for allowing us to honor your son this evening.

REMARKS BY JAMES WOOD HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, JOSEPH SALTER

David E. Owens, Jr. a graduate of JWHS, entered as a freshman in 1997. During the span of this high school career many would describe David as an individual with strong character, high integrity and a sincere love for his school.

David was not merely a student who focused his attention on attending classes. He also took an active part in the life and traditions of JWHS.

He was a dedicated athlete who participated in the school's football and wrestling programs. During his senior year, he excelled by placing 4th in the Commonwealth District wrestling tournament. This earned him a spot representing the school in the regional wrestling competition. He also was the recipient of the 2000 Winchester Wrestling Officials Association Sportsmanship Award.

In addition, David was committed to serving in his local Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter. He participated in a wide range of forestry-related events, sponsored by the FFA, because of his love for natural resources.

It is because of David's sincere devotion, that we the staff, faculty and student body of the James Wood community will forever be indebted to his legacy as a James Wood student and to the life he gave for his country.

REMARKS BY CONGRESSMAN FRANK R. WOLF, 10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

It is important to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.